

mediate characters between the Pigs and the Ruminants ; there are but three separate compartments. A highly - Interesting character is afforded by the placenta. This is in the present family of the diffuse kind., not presenting the separated and tufted cotyledons of the Ruminant placenta. This we may fairly assume is a further proof of the less-specialised characters of this group * as compared with the Ruminantia, a view, however, which is not universally accepted. While the molars have the selenodont character of other Pecora, the premolars are more adapted for cutting, with sharp edges.

The genus *Tragulus* consists of several species (e.g. *T. stanleyanus*, *T. nap?**, etc.), which have been aptly compared in external appearance to certain Rodents such as the Agoutis. The legs are delicate and slender, hardly " thicker than an ordinary cedar pencil." These creatures have got among the Malays a considerable reputation for astuteness, embodied in the saying, " Cunning as a *kanchil*." The male has tusks, which greatly contributed to the confusion of this creature with the totally different Musk Deer., *Moschus moschiferus*. It is even said to suspend itself by their aid to the branches of trees, and so avoid danger.

HyofinQschilS (or *Dorcatherium* as it should properly be called) is West African. Its rich brown colour, with spots and stripes, is much like that of the Chevrotains, but it has shorter limbs. The only species is *D. aquaticum*, which is sometimes called, on account of its frequenting the banks of streams, the Water Chevrotain. Remains of this genus occur in Miocene and Pliocene strata of Europe.

The separate metacarpals, comparatively simple stomach, absence of horns, diffuse placenta, and spotted pelage are features which argue the primitive position of these animals among existing Artiodactyles.

Besides the two existing genera which have just been treated of, there are a number of extinct genera undoubtedly belonging to the same group.

Gelocus (Eocene and Oligocene in range) is a European genus known from France. It differs from the living mem-

bers of the group by the fact that the second
and fifth toes
on both hind- and fore-feet are represented, as in
certain Deer,

^m For the structure of *Tragulus*, see Milne-Edwards, *Ann. JSfd.*
ASarf. (5) ii. 1864,
p. 49,